

Message Text

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15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 CEA-01 L-03

H-02 /092 W

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R 201015Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0378

UNCLAS DACCA 2008

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : BGEN, BTRA, BDIS, BG

SUBJECT : INTERNATIONAL TANK TERMINALS DISPUTE WITH BDG

REF: DACCA 1905

1. EMBOFF MET APRIL 19 WITH N.H. CHOUDHURY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL TANK TERMINALS (ITT) AND BADRUDDIN AHMED, ATTORNEY FOR ITT IN BANGLADESH AS PROMISED REFTEL. BADRUDDIN SAID THAT PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR A.K.M. HAFIZUDDIN HAD PROMISED TO ALLOW HIM, AS ITT'S ATTORNEY, A "FULL HEARING" TO PRESENT ITT'S CASE BEFORE REPEAT BEFORE A FINAL DECISION WAS REACHED. CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION HAFIZUDDIN LEFT WITH AMBASSADOR AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, BADRUDDIN WAS SURE THAT FINAL DECISION HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN.

2. EMBOFF THEN ASKED CHOUDHURY AND BADRUDDIN WHAT ACTION EMBASSY SHOULD NOW TAKE ON ITT'S BEHALF. BOTH AGREED THAT WE SHOULD DEFER ANY ACTION UNTIL ITT PRESIDENT THOMAS B. COLEMAN AND BOARD CHAIRMAN JAMES J. COLEMAN ARRIVE IN BANGLADESH EARLY IN MAY. BADRUDDIN SAID THAT, IN MEANTIME, HE WOULD SEEK ANOTHER MEETING WITH HAFIZUDDIN TO CLARIFY IMPRESSION LEFT WITH AMBASSADOR (PARA 1) AND HIS OWN FEELING THAT FINAL DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN.

3. N.H. CHOUDHURY AND BADRUDDIN AHMED NEXT MET WITH ECON COUNSELOR
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APRIL 20. AFTER LEARNING FIRSTHAND WHAT HAFIZUDDIN HAD SAID AT

MEETING REPORTED REFTEL, BADRUDDIN ASKED ECON COUNSELOR TO ALERT HAFIZUDDIN TO FORTHCOMING VISIT OF ITT SENIOR EXECUTIVES AND TO UNDERLINE CONTINUING EMBASSY INTEREST IN ITT CASE BY REQUESTING FURTHER MEETING BETWEEN BADRUDDIN AND HAFIZUDDIN. BADRUDDIN STATED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF LATEST DECISION AND HAD NO DETAILS AS HAFIZUDDIN HAD SUGGESTED AT EARLIER MEETING (REFTEL). ACCORDINGLY, ECON COUNSELOR TELEPHONED HAFIZUDDIN AND REQUESTED DEFERRING OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY DECISION TAKEN UNTIL AFTER VISIT OF ITT EXECUTIVES. HAFIZUDDIN SAID DECISION CONVEYED EARLIER MEETING STOOD, BUT THAT HE WOULD OF COURSE MEET WITH BADRUDDIN AHMED.

4. DESK MAY WISH TO INFORM ITT U.S. OF CURRENT SITUATION.
BOSTER

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